

Thank you for joining us. The webinar will begin shortly.

The New York Life Foundation's *Aim High* Grant Program:

Tips to Apply



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Housekeeping Notes



Experiencing Delays?

Try closing out the other programs running on your computer.



Audio difficulties? Keep this number handy!

Dial: 1-917-893-3370

Code: 4020631#

Having Technical Issues?

Let us know in the chat box.



Please save your questions for the Q&A section at the end of the webinar.

We will be using a **dedicated Q&A Box**, *not the chat box*, to answer questions.



Speakers:



- **Marlyn Torres**, Senior Program Officer, New York Life Foundation
- **Dan Gilbert**, Senior Project Manager, Afterschool Alliance



Agenda

AWARD OVERVIEW

TOP 5 TIPS

COMMON QUESTIONS

FEEDBACK FROM THE FIRST ROUND

WHAT TO REMEMBER

Q&A



Overview



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The Aim High RFP Program

- **Grants Target:**

- Afterschool, Summer, & Expanded Learning Programs
- Serving Disadvantaged Youth
- Supporting the Transition to 9th Grade



- **4th Year:** \$1.35 Million in Grants



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National Middle School OST Investments

- Research shows that students who get to 9th grade prepared and on-time are **4 times more likely to graduate from high school**. This important step puts students on the right path for academic and financial success.
- Since 2013, the Foundation has invested more than **\$45 million** in grants to support middle school youth in OST programs

Aim High RFP Program

The Aim High Grant Program is modeled after the Foundation's national grantmaking strategy.

Indicators of Success:

- Academic Success
- School Attendance
- On-Time Promotion to 9th Grade
- Development of Social & Emotional Skills



Aim High: New in 2020

1-Year Grants Focused on Opioid Misuse Prevention:

This year's ten 1-year, \$15,000 grants will be focused on helping programs to combat the widespread misuse of opioids and other substances in communities around the country.



Timeline



- The RFP is currently **OPEN**
- The RFP will close at **5:00 PM ET** on **Friday, January 24, 2020**
- Applications will be reviewed on a competitive basis by a diverse team of experts.
- Grant awards will be announced in **May, 2020**
- The **two-year grant period** will begin in May 2020 and end in May 2022
- The **one-year grant period** will begin in May 2020 and end in May 2021



Grant Tiers

	Number of Grants Awarded	Individual Grant: Year 1	Individual Grant: Year 2	Total 2-Year Grant Amount	Annual Budget
Tier 1	8	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$100,000	Annual <i>Program</i> Budget Must Be At Least \$250,000 AND Annual <i>Organizational</i> Budget must be at least \$500,000
Tier 2	8	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	Annual <i>Organizational</i> Budget must be at least \$250,000
Tier 3	10	\$15,000	N/A	N/A	Annual <i>Organizational</i> Budget must be at least \$150,000



Eligibility Requirements

1. Applicants must be registered **501(c)3** organizations.
2. Applicants must either serve **middle school youth** (grades 6, 7, and 8) or use grant funds to begin serving middle school youth.
3. Applicants must serve a **high percentage (75%) of low-income youth**, as determined by Free & Reduce Price Lunch (FRPL) rates.
4. Applicants must **not currently receive funding** from the New York Life Foundation, either directly or as 'pass-through' funding.



Eligible Uses for Funds – *2-Year Grants*

Grant funds may be used for **technical assistance** and/or **enhancing direct service activities**.

- **Technical assistance** includes:

- *Program enhancements*
- *Operations enhancements*
- *Governance enhancements*

- **Direct service components** include:

- *Expanding program capacity*
- *Adding a new program component*
- *Enhancing programming* to better support students' *transition to the 9th grade*.



Eligible Uses for Funds – *1-Year Grants*

Grant funds may be used for **technical assistance** and/or **enhancing direct service activities**, with a **focus** on supporting children and families in communities that have been impacted by widespread **misuse of opioids and other substances**.

- **Technical assistance** includes:

- *Program enhancements, such as:*

- *Professional Development*
- *Evaluation and Quality Assurance & Improvement Systems*

- **Direct service components** include:

- *Expanding program capacity*
- *Enhancing programming* to better reflect promising practices, especially around *trauma-informed care, adverse childhood experiences,* and *substance misuse prevention*.



Reporting

Reporting Requirements

Progress Reports Due	<u>1-Year Grants</u>	<u>2-Year Grants</u>
October 1, 2020	Progress Report Due	Progress Report Due
March 1, 2021	Progress Report Due	Progress Report Due
October 1, 2021	Final Report Due	Progress Report Due
March 1, 2022	N/A	Progress Report Due
October 1, 2022	N/A	Final Report Due



Top 5 Tips



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Tip #1

Tip #1:
All Questions Have A Purpose



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Tip #2

Tip #2:
Be an Advocate for your Program

Tip #3

Tip #3:
Provide Lots of Details



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Tip #4

Tip #4: Keep it Relevant



Tip #5

Tip #5:
Read, Re-Read
Have Someone Else Read
And Read Again



Templates & Samples:

- **Section D: Project Description and Expected Outcomes**
- **Section F: Budget and Narrative**
- Links to the templates and samples are available in the PDF of the Request For Proposals, and are also linked to from within the application.



Common Questions



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Common Questions

How many grants will be given?

- 8 grants of \$50,000/year, for a total 2-year grant amount of \$100,000.
- 8 grants of \$25,000/year, for a total 2-year grant amount of \$50,000.
- 10 1-year grants of \$15,000.

Are non-profit organizations that are not 501(c)3 eligible to apply?

- **No**, only 501(c)(3) organizations are eligible to apply.



Common Questions

Can multiple programs or program sites from the same organization submit applications separately?

- **No**, each organization (as determined by the organization's EIN) can only submit one application. However, if an applicant is an affiliate of a national organization, more than one affiliate is able to apply for funding so long as that affiliate is currently not receiving grant funds from the New York Life Foundation.
- **If** an organization has multiple affiliates or regional entities with distinct EINs, one application may be submitted for each EIN.

Are organizations with annual budgets of less than \$150,000 eligible to apply for any of the grants?

- **No**, they are not. The minimum organizational budget to be eligible for the grants is \$150,000.



Common Questions

What is the geographic scope of the grants?

- Applicants will be accepted from anywhere within the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Applicants from US Territories are ineligible to apply.
- NOTE: The New York Life Foundation reserves the right to provide an additional 5 points to certain applications based on the location and geographic distribution of applicants.

Are schools, school districts, and/or government agencies eligible to apply?

- Only if they are registered 501(c)3 organizations.



Common Questions

Can 501(c)3 organizations serve as a fiduciary agent for programs run by organizations that are not 501(c)3?

- **No**, the 501(c)3 organizations must be the applying program provider.

Can I get a recording of this webinar?

- **Yes**, this webinar is being recorded. The link will be both sent to you via email and posted on the Afterschool Alliance's Webinars Page



Common Questions

Is it the program budget or the organizational budget that will need to meet the budget requirement?

- For the 1-Year, \$15,000 grants and the 2-Year, \$50,000 grants, it is the full organization's operating budget from the most recent fiscal year that determines eligibility. For most organizations this will be the final FY16 budget.
- For the 2-Year, \$100,000 grants, applicants must meet the budget minimum for **both** the organizational budget **and** the program budget (See RFP).



Feedback from Past Years



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Feedback from Previous Rounds:

Turnout & Distribution:

- Competitive application process
- Last year, 26 programs awarded in 18 states
- Make sure to polish your answers

Feedback from Previous Rounds:

Lessons from the review process:

- **Remember:** Reviewers are on your side
- Reviewers' job is narrow the field - don't give any reason to deduct points

Feedback from Previous Rounds:

Applicants that did best typically made a compelling argument that they were a **good fit** for the stated objectives of the Aim High Grant Program.



Feedback from Previous Rounds:

The **#1 reason** applicants lost points:
responses did not address specifics of
questions as they were posed

What to Remember



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Remember:

Due Date: Nominations must be submitted by ***Friday, January 24th 2020*** at 5:00 PM EST.

Draft, Edit, Review: Download the application, review the questions, and draft your answers with time to spare. Make sure your questions provide clear answers to the questions they correspond to.

Data Matters: The strongest applications often include robust program data.

Don't Assume: Reviewers ***will*** be unfamiliar with your program; provide detailed information that will help reviewers gain a stronger understanding of the supports your program provides.

Q&A

More questions? Email Dan Gilbert at
dgilbert@afterschoolalliance.org



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